



COLLEGE STATION POLICE DEPARTMENT INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeff Capps, Police Chief

FROM: Michael H. Pavelka, Internal Affairs Lieutenant, #354

REF: 2013 Use of Force Analysis

DATE: February 26, 2014

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Chapter 42 Section 6 (d) as well as Section 10(a) of the College Station Police Department Policies and Procedures Manual requires an annual analysis of documented uses of force. The following is an analysis of force used by officers and staff in 2013.

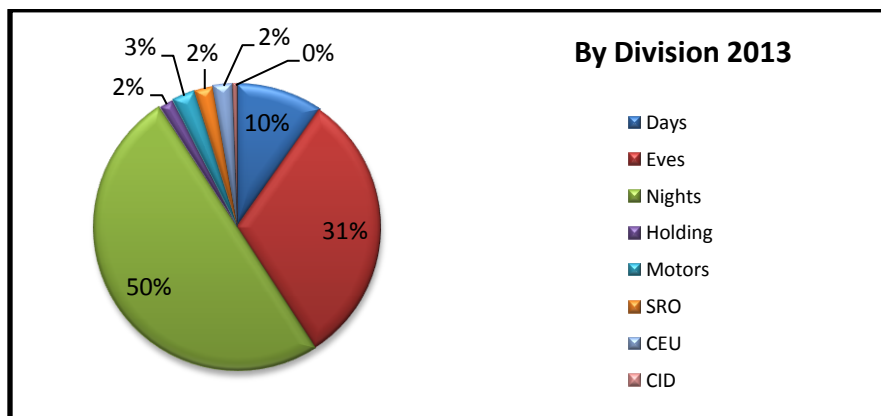
BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

In analyzing the data, there are several subsets, which reflect variations of the total number of use of force incidents. For the purpose of this report, a use of force incident is an event or episode during which force was used. The force incident may involve multiple persons, multiple officers, and multiple types of force. For example a felony stop conducted by three officers on vehicle with four occupants during which all officers involved pointed their weapons at someone is one force incident. The variations may be a result of multiple employees using force on one individual, an employee using multiple types of force on an individual, or a combination of employees using various action of force on groups of people. Though the numbers vary slightly, the data accurately reflects the trends of the department and can be utilized to ensure that College Station Police Department is engaged in the best practices possible in an effort to reduce use of force instances, injury, and liability concerns. The following more closely dissects the data captured in the use of force incidents to determine and potential trends.

In 2013 there were a total of 186 uses of force incidents involving 252 persons. When compared with raw data from 2012 (284 incidents involving 313 person) there appears to be a significant decrease in force incidents. This decrease however is most likely explained by a change in reporting requirements modified in April of 2013. This modification removed the requirement for employees to report incidents of soft empty hand control and handcuffing without an arrest, unless there was an injury or alleged injury. It further removed the reporting requirement related an officer removing their firearm or TASER from the holster, making a use of force report required only if those items were actually pointed at a person.

By Division

Of the 186 use of force incidents, 91% of those instances involved personnel assigned to Patrol (50% Night Shift, 31% Evening Shift, 10 % Day Shift). The remaining nine percent involved personnel assigned to the Holding Facility, Motors, SRO, CID and CEU.

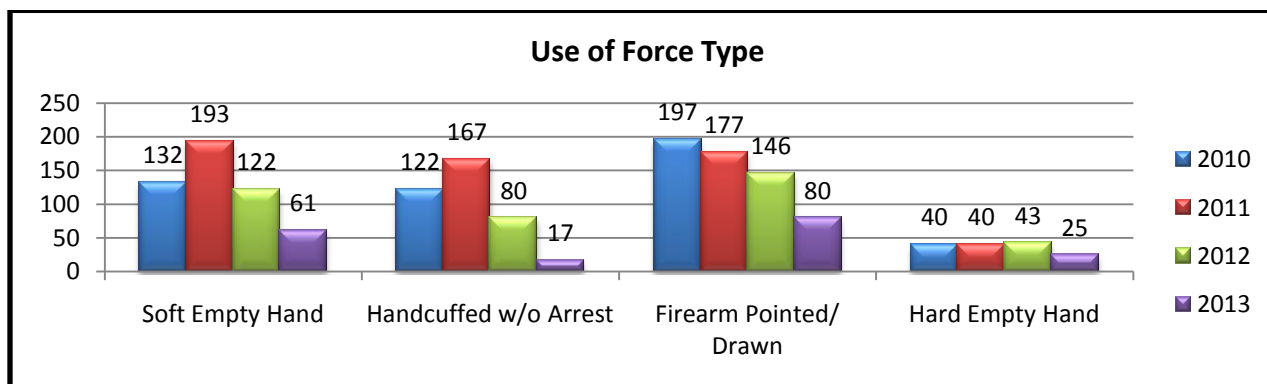


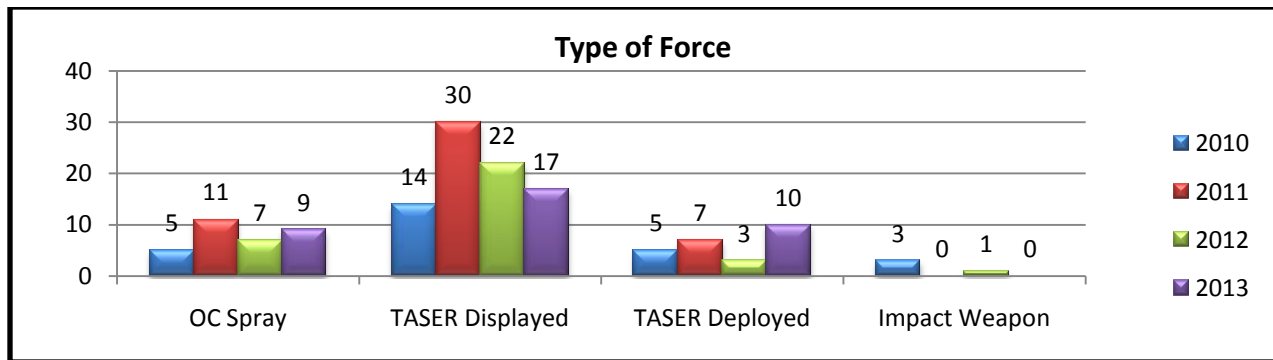
Complaints and Disciplinary Action

Of the 284 force incidents, there were six incidents that were investigated due to excessive force allegations. In all six of the investigations, officers were ultimately exonerated of any wrong doing related to their use of force.

Type of Force Used

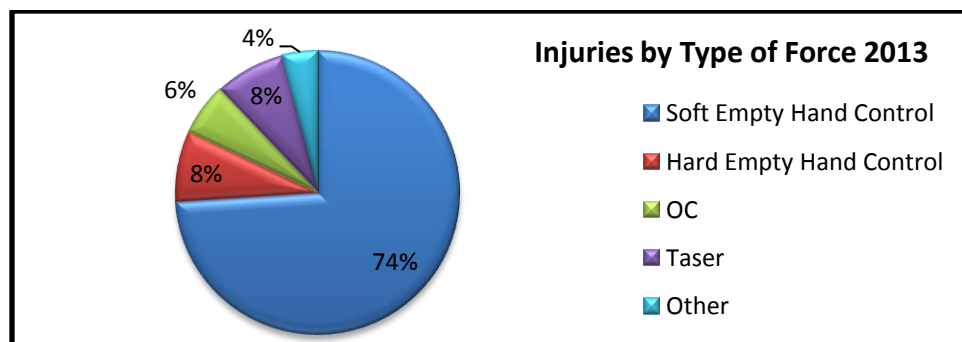
In 2013, the most commonly used type of force in a force incident was drawing or pointing a firearm, which occurred in 80 incidents. This number is down significantly when compared to previous years, which is explained by the change in reporting requirements which were discussed above. The change in reporting requirements also provides an explanation to the decrease in force incidents involving handcuffing without arrest and soft empty hand control.





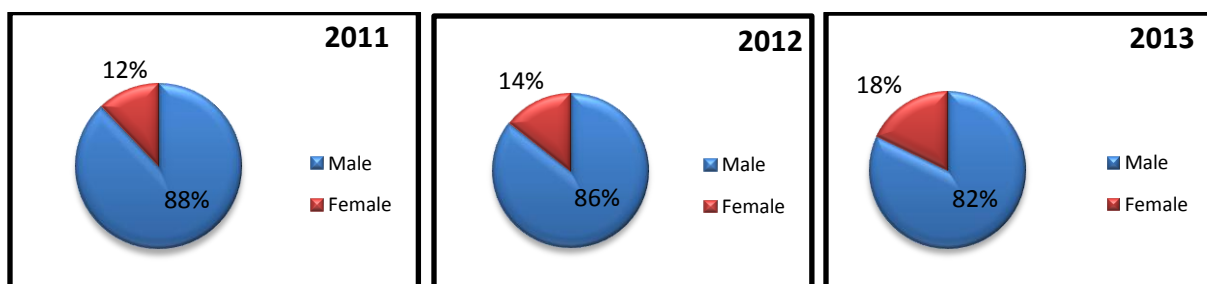
Injuries

There were 50 persons reported to have sustained injury as a result of force used on them. Complaint of pain accounts for all of the injuries involving OC Spray and TASER deployments. Soft Empty Hand Control accounted for 74% (37) of the incidents where an injury was received or alleged to have been received due to use of force. These injuries typically consisted of scrapes or scratches as a result of officers tackling or otherwise taking the person down to the ground. The most significant claims of injuries were a dislocated shoulder and a broken finger.



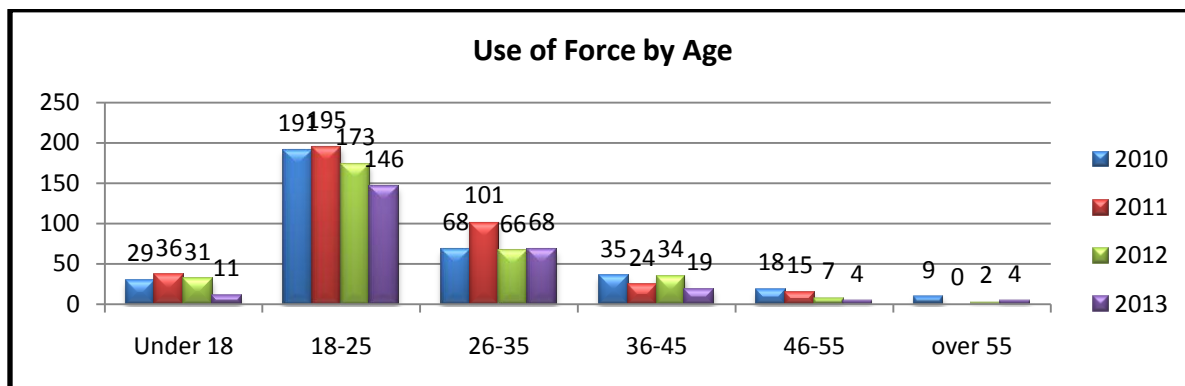
Gender

In 2013, force was used on females in 18% of the instances with the remaining 82% used on males. This data is relatively consistent when compared to the 2011 and 2012 data.



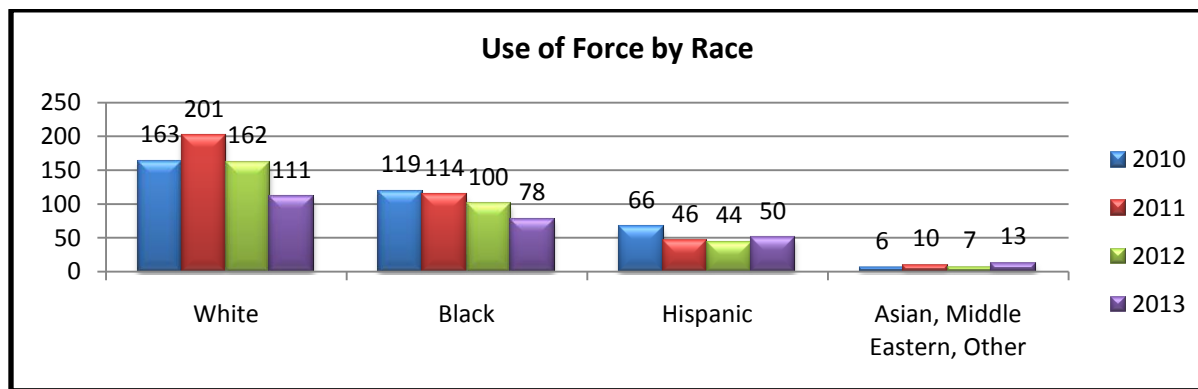
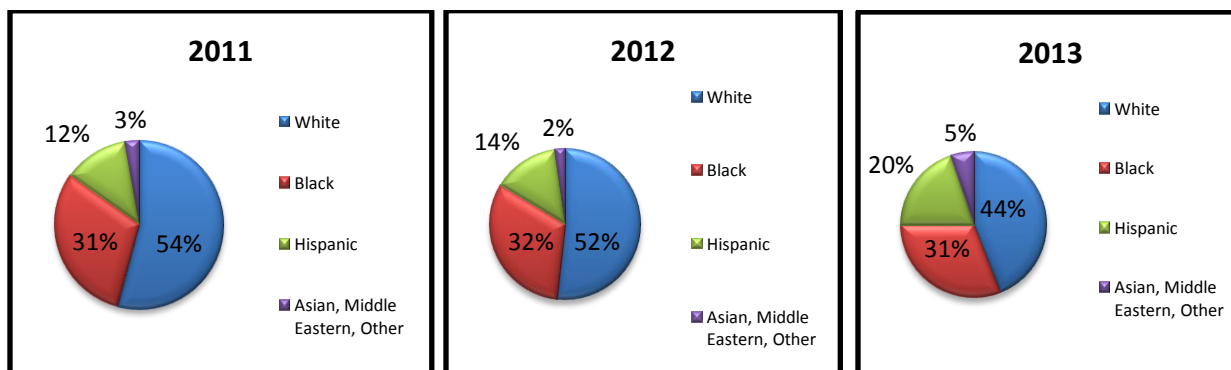
Age

In 2013, persons between the ages of 18-25 years contributed to 58% of the use of force incidents.



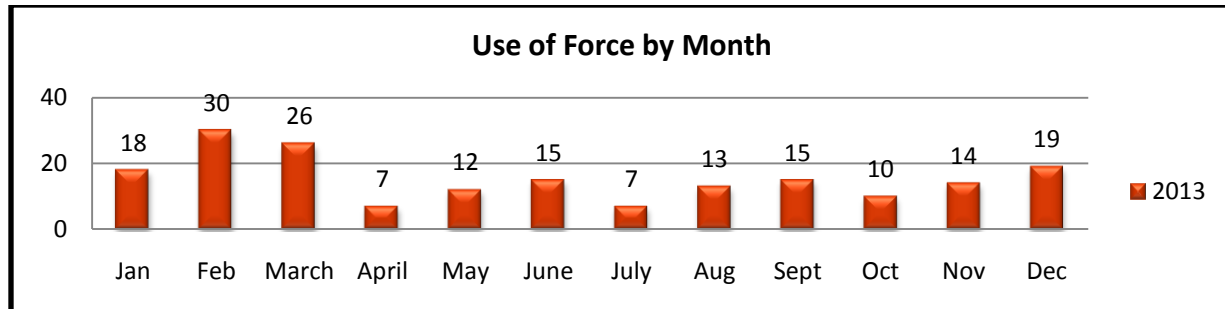
Race

In 44% reported incidents, force was used on someone classified as white followed by 31 % black. The percentage and actual numbers of force incidents involving white and black person decrease when compared to past years. Though the percentage of force incidents involving Hispanics increased when compared to previous years, the change is best explained by a reduction of force incidents involving whites and blacks, as the actual number of force incidents involving Hispanics has remained relatively unchanged.



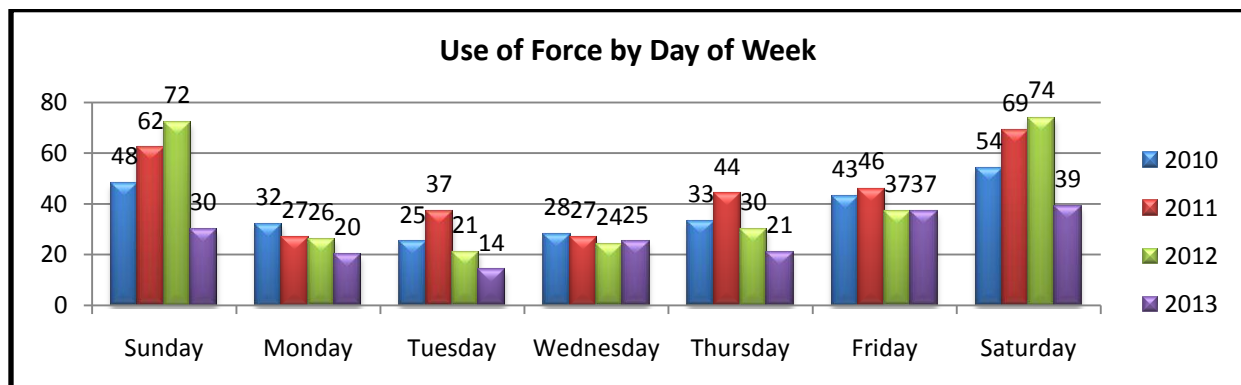
Month

February and March had the highest totals of use of force incidents, but may be skewed due to the more stringent reporting requirements at the time.



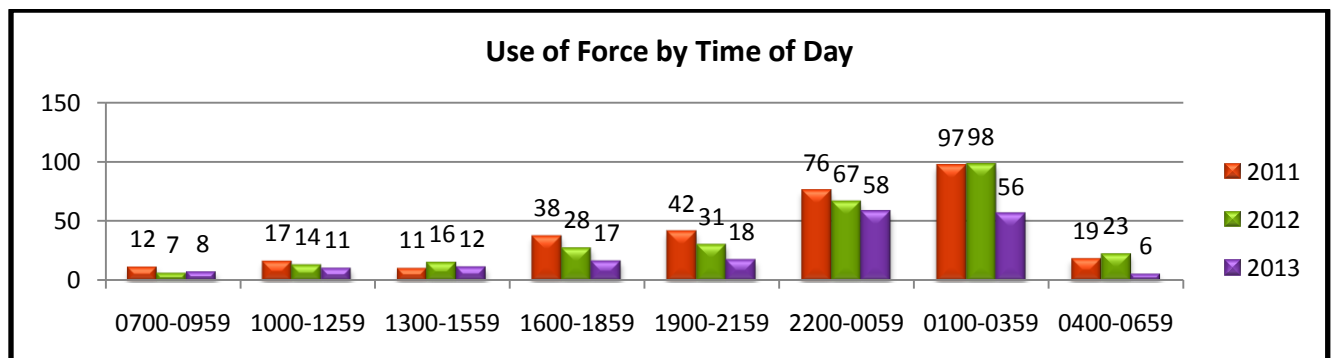
Day of Week

Saturday continues to have the highest frequency of use of force incidents, accounting for 21%, followed by Friday at 20% and Sunday at 16%.



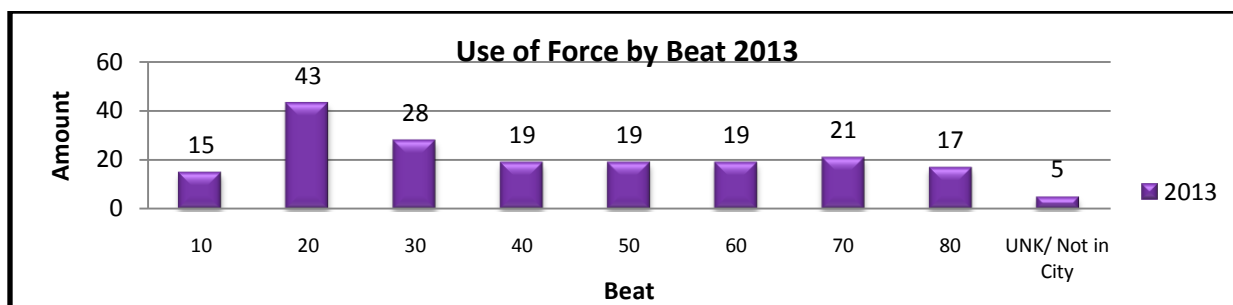
Time of Day

The data indicates that 61% of all use of force incidents occurred between 2200 hours and 0359. In comparison with the 2011 and 2012 data, there appears to be a decline in the amount of force incidents between 0100-0359.



Beat

In 2013, a beat realignment occurred and therefore a comparison of past data was not possible. The Northgate Entertainment District was previously part of 10 beat and historically had the highest percentage of use of force incidents (27% of all force incidents in 2012). In 2013, the beat realignment caused the Northgate Entertainment District to fall into 20 beat, and 20 beat accounted for the highest percentage of force incidents in 2013 at 23%. Despite the realignment there was not a significant change regarding force incidents in the Northgate area.



Force Incidents Involving Alcohol and/or Drugs

In 2013, 47% (119) of all reported force incidents involved a person who was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Conclusion

The data indicates that there was a significant reduction in the amount of force incidents in 2012 when compared to 2013, but is believed to be in large part due to the reductions in reporting requirements. The data suggest that a force incident is more likely to involve a male between the ages of 18-25 and are more likely to occur on Friday, Saturday or Sunday between the hours of 0100 to 0400 in Beat 20. This data suggest that officers working the Northgate Entertainment District on the peak nights are more likely to become involved in a use of force incident.

In processing and reviewing force incidents over the past year, I have found that officers are effectively adhering to the practices and procedures as detailed by CSPD policy. The relatively low percentage of injuries, minor nature of injuries, and complaints related to force, suggests that officers are using force when appropriate and do so with regard to the subject's safety. As such, I do believe there are any modifications to our Use of Force policy or practices are needed at this time.

Recommendation

I have no recommended changes at this time.